

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.6% (1,912) reside in the Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (363) of Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 69.4% of admissions from the Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District were male and 30.7% were female.
- Over 63.8% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 83.4% of admissions were white non-Latino, 5.5% were black non-Latino, 4.7% were Latino, 0.5% were Asians, and 3.9% were other racial categories.
- 70.0% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 9.5% were married, and 13.0% reported not to be married now.
- 25.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 53.7% completed high school, and 21.9% had more than high school education.
- 20.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 19.5% of those admitted were homeless.
- 22.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

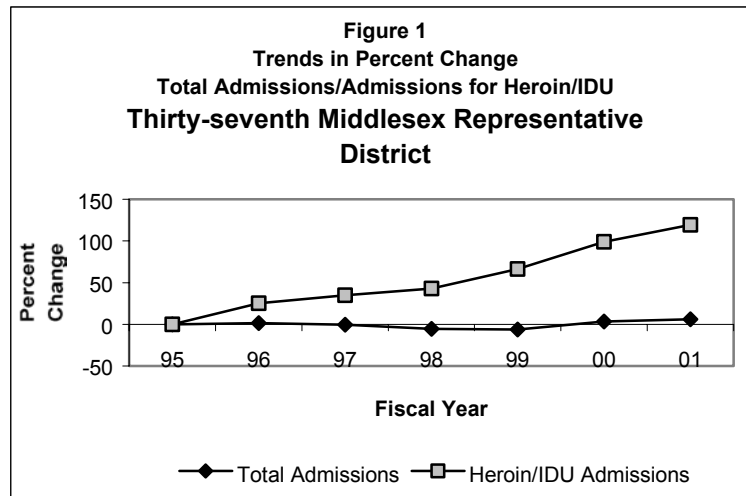
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,805	1,492	606	725	400	481	287
FY '96	1,831	1,512	617	644	427	595	368
FY '97	1,798	1,466	552	579	407	613	423
FY '98	1,704	1,331	538	540	308	639	457
FY '99	1,690	1,269	523	550	256	731	546
FY '00	1,868	1,334	531	585	240	858	671
FY '01	1,912	1,387	515	594	259	942	742

- Since peaking in FY 1996, residents of Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District have reported a steady increase in heroin use, but a decrease in all other drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use nearly doubled, while alcohol use decreased by 7%, marijuana by 15%, cocaine by 18%, and crack use by 35%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 5.9% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 119%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirty-seventh Middlesex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	42.2 %	42.9%	3.4%	4.1%	2.5%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol, marijuana and crack was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000